



**Public Prosecution
Service**

Belfast Chambers
93 Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 3JR

10 April 2018

I refer to your email received by the PPS on 12 March 2018 in which you requested information regarding convictions for murder and attempted murder.

This request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You had asked for the following for each calendar year for the last five years:

- 1. How many men and how many women have been convicted of murder and attempted murder?*
- 2. In each case, did they plead guilty or not guilty?*
- 3. In each case, can you tell me the total custodial sentence they received?*

In response to questions 1 and 2, please see attached **Table 1** detailing the overall court outcomes in cases involving murder and attempted murder over the five year period 2013 – 2017 inclusive. **Tables 2** and **3** detail the breakdown for male and female defendants. All statistics should be read in conjunction with the explanatory notes, which are set out in the various worksheets

In respect of question 3, whilst data are held on outcomes in relation to cases involving murder and attempted murder, the PPS cannot provide an analysis of sentencing in respect of these offences. However this information may be available from the department of Justice / NI Courts and Tribunals Service.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request under the Freedom of Information you have the right to request a review in accordance with our review procedure. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of this response by writing to the Head of Policy & Information, Public Prosecution Service, Belfast Chambers, 93 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 3JR or alternatively by sending an e-mail to info@ppsni.gov.uk. You should state clearly the grounds on which you are requesting the review.

Alternatively, you may wish to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

PPS FOI Team

Table 1
Crown Court Outcomes for Murder/Attempted Murder 2013 – 2017 (All Defendants)

Based on Disposal Date

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	All
Plead Guilty All, Found Guilty All	5	4	6	4	2	21
Plead Not Guilty On At Least One Offence - Found Guilty Of At Least One Offence	25	40	26	12	13	116
Plead Not Guilty All, Found Not Guilty All	8	7	0	2	3	20
Other	0	1	2	0	1	4
All Defendants	38	52	34	18	19	161

Please note that the data refer to the overall outcome for each defendant. Where the outcome is one of 'Plead Not Guilty On At Least One Offence - Found Guilty Of At Least One Offence', the guilty finding may apply to any offence prosecuted and not the specific offence of murder or attempted murder.

Offence Description
ATTEMPTED MURDER
MURDER
MURDER (OFFENCE COMMITTED IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)

Table 2
Crown Court Outcomes for Murder/Attempted Murder 2013 – 2017 (Male Defendants)

Based on Disposal Date

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	All
	Male	Male	Male	Male	Male	
Plead Guilty All, Found Guilty All	5	4	6	4	2	21
Plead Not Guilty On At Least One Offence - Found Guilty Of At Least One Offence	23	40	24	9	11	107
Plead Not Guilty All, Found Not Guilty All	7	6	0	2	3	18
Other	0	1	2	0	1	4
All Male Defendants	35	51	32	15	17	150

Please note that the data refer to the overall outcome for each defendant. Where the outcome is one of 'Plead Not Guilty On At Least One Offence - Found Guilty Of At Least One Offence', the guilty finding may apply to any offence prosecuted and not the specific offence of murder or attempted murder.

Offence Description
ATTEMPTED MURDER
MURDER
MURDER (OFFENCE COMMITTED IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)

Table 3
Crown Court Outcomes for Murder/Attempted Murder 2013 – 2017 (Female Defendants)

Based on Disposal Date

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	All
	Female	Female	Female	Female	Female	
Plead Not Guilty On At Least One Offence - Found Guilty Of At Least One Offence	2	0	2	3	2	9
Plead Not Guilty All, Found Not Guilty All	1	1	0	0	0	2
All Female Defendants	3	1	2	3	2	11

Please note that the data refer to the overall outcome for each defendant. Where the outcome is one of 'Plead Not Guilty On At Least One Offence - Found Guilty Of At Least One Offence', the guilty finding may apply to any offence prosecuted and not the specific offence of murder or attempted murder.

Offence Description
ATTEMPTED MURDER
MURDER
MURDER (OFFENCE COMMITTED IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)